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SCRANTON, DECEMBER 30, 1897.

Comptroller Eckles no doubt meant well toward Mr. Singery's bank when he permitted it to violate the law, but the comptroller of the currency should realize that the best kindness for all concerned is to do his duty promptly and without the appearance of favoritism.

As to Interstate Commerce.

The punitive father of interstate commerce law, Senator Cullom, has proposed a number of amendments to that statute, with a view of restoring to it the vitality which it has lost by successive court opinions. Chief of them is one conferring upon the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to fix maximum and minimum rates when necessary to prevent discrimination, and inasmuch as this proposition is the nub of the whole contention it may be worth while to consider it briefly.

As the law stands, the shipper who can prove discrimination can collect damages through an equity proceeding; but in order to do this he must have enough nerve and money to engage in an uncertain, expensive and protracted legal battle in which the railroad holds the principle points of advantage. If he wins, he gets his own money back but receives no assurance that the road will not skin him again, perhaps in the very next transaction. The other shippers who have also been victimized get no redress unless they, likewise, sue and prove their case. Appeal to the Interstate Commerce Commission is useless, for that body is powerless. It can collect testimony and offer advice, but its testimony is not admitted as part of the evidence in the equity proceedings and its advice lays no commands on the railroads. A fifth wheel to a wagon would not be more superfluous for all the purposes of utility than is the Interstate Commerce Commission under the ruling interpretation of the act by which it was created.

One of two things must be done by Congress if it have any regard for consistency—either repeal the Interstate Commerce act wholly, leaving the railway business entirely free from federal regulation, or so strengthen that law that the agents employed in its enforcement will have sufficient authority to protect the great body of shippers against gross imposition. Of these alternatives the latter is manifestly preferable and Congress should not delay its adoption.

The Philadelphia Inquirer contradicts the report that the Republican state committee has been sending out Stone literature. Here is clearly the chance for an issue of veracity or an explanation. Let us have the facts.

Ineffectual.

Report has it that a formidable influence is being put in readiness at Washington to bear on Congress with a view to blocking further efforts to restrict immigration. This opposition is made up of a number of elements; the immigrant steamship companies and their agents, the demagogues who prey on ignorant immigrants, and finally a class of honest but mistaken people who contend that additional immigration in large volume will not for many years be dangerous and that to discriminate in the admission of immigrants is to violate the spirit of our free institutions.

The subject is one concerning which no new arguments are nowadays possible, the whole matter being fully understood by all. The great majority of intelligent Americans approve the call for increased restriction, so that it is clearly the duty of Congress to act in this direction. The one point now fairly open to discussion touches the method of discriminating between admissible and undesirable immigrants. We confess to some doubt as to the efficacy of the literacy test provided in the Lodge bill, which requires the reading in one language of 25 words taken at random from the United States constitution; but until a better test offers, common sense would appear to demand that this one receive a trial. In that event experience would reveal defects and thus enable a subsequent Congress to correct them.

Certain it is that no foreign steamship lobby or other ex parte advocates of wide-open doors will be permitted to defeat the public demand for the safeguarding through immigration restriction of American labor and American society.

Inasmuch as Russia occupies Port Arthur at China's invitation it is difficult to see upon what grounds Great Britain can order her out. The whole amount of it seems to be that John Bull has been enchered.

Wizard Tesla's Latest.

Nicola Tesla is credited in some of the papers with having devised a simple and inexpensive process to generate electricity from the rays of the sun. Nicola Tesla gets credited these days with a good many wonderful feats which are news as well to him as to the laity; but if this latest report has any basis of fact it is only a step in the line of long foreshadowed progress.

The following description of Tesla's new device is from the New York World: "In the center of a large room with a glass roof Tesla will place a huge cylinder of thick glass. This will repose on a bed of asbestos and be supported by a firm stone pedestal placed in the center of the room. The circle will be laid lengthwise and will be surrounded by a circle of complicated mirrors that may be covered with asbestos coats. These mirrors will reflect the rays of the sun into the glass cylinder. The cylinder will always be kept full of water which has been chemically treated by a secret process which Tesla has devised, and which, he says, is the only complicated part of the discovery. All day long, while the sun shines, its rays will be refracted into the great cylinder. The

chemical treatment makes the water easily susceptible to heat and in a little time the vaporizing begins. The great quantity of steam which is rapidly generated in the cylinder is carried to a steam engine of ordinary construction. The engine in turn will generate electricity, which will be stored in a large power-house, from which it will be transmitted by cables to the factory and to the home. The power-house will store sufficient electricity to meet all demands during the time that the sun does not shine, although it may be clouded for weeks at a time."

Anything which appears in the New York World is to be regarded with incredulity until corroborated elsewhere; but on the other hand, nothing credited to Nicola Tesla can safely be dismissed as preposterous until there is proof that it is imaginary. In this state of suspense the public listens patiently for Mr. Tesla's own version of this alleged new discovery or enterprise.

If Japan would only tackle Germany and take some of the conceit out of the Berlin war lord it might prove an effective contribution to the world's future peace. But if Japan is wise she will tread lightly on the tail of the Russian bear.

Lights and Shadows.

Tunkhamock has recently been illuminated by electricity and now the leading newspapers of the town are in a wrangle regarding the dangers of the chained lightning. One paper warns persons against dusting incandescent globes while the current is turned on, and another brings letters to prove that the current used in Tunkhamock for lighting purposes is as harmless as Castoria and "would not injure a baby." Another question which vexes the residents is the furnishing of lights for the court house park. The sun set aside by the borough for lighting purposes will scarcely supply the heart of the town, not to speak of the suburbs and river bank, where the arc candle would be useful to the citizen who occasionally indulges in the sport of spearfishing. The taxpayers of the town therefore feel that the county commissioners ought to furnish lights for the court house square. But the commissioners hesitate. The expenditure of county money to furnish illumination for Tunkhamock while the taxpayers of East Lemon, West Nicholson, Skinner's Eddy and Square Top are obliged to stumble in the dim rays of the tallow dip or kerosene burner at night is a serious question that might be made one of the political issues of the future. It is a problem that to a certain extent staggers the board of Wyoming. It may be possible that when the good citizens of the town and county become accustomed to the glare of the new light these perplexing questions will adjust themselves to the situation, but at present the recent effort to turn on the light in the enterprising village bids fair to be the source of incalculable difficulties.

In the case of the actor, Ratcliffe, sentenced to six months' imprisonment for wife-beating, there is good reason to doubt whether the wife ought not also to be sentenced to jail on general principles, the testimony indicating that it was six of one and half-a-dozen of the other. But no provocation can excuse the man's crime. He has landed himself in deserved contempt.

A Lesson from Russia.

A lesson in census-taking is supplied by the Russian government, which conducted on one day in the present year an enumeration of the population and collected much other important information throughout the entire Russian empire, which comprises a domain almost three as spacious as our own. The date of this enumeration was Feb. 9 and in November an English review printed an extensive digest of the results.

The eleventh census of the United States, nominally the census of 1890, did not get its enumeration of population straightened out until 1893 and some of the volumes of the miscellaneous statistics were not printed and ready for distribution until last month, being therefore seven years and eleven months behind time. It is possible that this delay was inevitable in view of the conditions surrounding the work; but the present Congress ought not to be content to permit the Twelfth census to be organized in any such dilatory fashion. Time these days is too precious.

Good results will never come until the census bureau is made a permanent feature of the government, in the hands of non-partisan experts chosen solely because of their efficiency and required to keep the main census figures—the computation as to population, industrial growth, etc.—revised to date. Money now wasted in unsatisfactory decennial spurts will support amply a permanent bureau and enable it with proper direction to yield a vastly superior return to the nation.

Money is the easiest thing to send to Cuba, but clothing and supplies are the things most likely to do the greatest good. The starving Cuban with money is an irresistible temptation to the average Spanish soldier.

Concerning Big Guns.

The esteemed Pittston Gazette remarks: "Scranton entertains hundreds of big guns every winter at banquets and receptions. Scranton people are wise beyond their neighbors. It costs comparatively little to show the big guns a good time and the latter in turn spread the fact of Scranton's hospitality and enterprise and magnificence from one end of the country to the other. We have a suspicion that the sagacity of the Electric City's Board of Trade secretary encourages these conventions and banquets which bring so many people to the city and advertise it so widely. Scranton is certainly entitled to the honor of being the metropolis of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and the city's population and wealth continue to grow at a wonderful rate."

The inference which envious people might derive from the Gazette's words—although we know it was not in the Gazette editor's mind—is that Scranton's board of trade or some other Scranton organization employs a professional lion-hunter to lasso the notables and

bring them hitherward to feed. But really the reverse is true, neighbor, really the reverse is true. The great problem in Scranton these days is not how to capture "big guns" but how to turn them away. So widely disseminated is this city's fame and so thoroughly it is maintained, that the problem presented on the occasions of which our contemporary speaks is that of a surfeit of greatness, a glut, as it were, in the big gun supply.

We have no doubt whatever that small towns in search of this kind of advertising can be accommodated from Scranton's overplus without in the least diminishing the local crush.

The American flag will have to float over Hawaii sooner or later, that is certain. By putting it there now we will simply avoid the trouble and expense of putting it there at some future time by force.

It is a pity that plucky little Japan could not have had a finger in the pie in the attempts to settle the questions of interest to the "sick man" of the Ottoman empire.

The reigning dynasty in China doubtless begins to think that it has stirred up a whole nest of "yellow jackets."

It is announced that the leader of the Ohio revolt against Mark Hanna intends to leave the state. He is wise.

If Uncle Sam had done his duty toward Cuba at the beginning, hat-passing now would be unnecessary.

In point of diplomatic over-sensitiveness, Senor de Loma is working too hard for the salary he gets.

It begins to look a little as if the German emperor's hunt for trouble would be rewarded.

The Hon. Lyman J. Gage is evidently a man who has forced music before.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Apaches The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrological Cast, S. E. A., for Thursday, December 30, 1897.

A child born on this day will notice that too much self-esteem often dulls the edges of sagacity.

There's nothing like a lilac suit to remove that "padded edition" feeling in the head of the editor.

The name of an ornamental business man is always more attractive on a letter head than on a sixty-day note.

It is often a misfortune to be too valuable. Under some circumstances the fate of the goose that laid the golden egg might have been different.

In the selection of church music, some choir masters give evidence of a heart that the congregation needs a little punishment on earth.

Aiaceus' Advice.

Do not be over-cautious and suspicious, unless you are counting dyspepsia.

Cuba's Call for International Aid.

From the Washington Star.

There should be no doubt whatever of the promptness or fullness of the response of the American people to President McKinley's suggestions as to the formation of a fund for the relief of the suffering inhabitants of the island of Cuba. The sympathy between this country and the Cubans is close. It has manifested itself in many ways at various stages of the efforts of Spain's insular subjects to free themselves. It has suggested the active intervention of this government to secure independence for the Cubans, and it has even gone to the extent of jeopardizing the peaceful relations of the United States with Spain to the end that Cuba might be free.

It is now within the knowledge of the American people that thousands of the inhabitants of this nearly island lack the necessities of life and are in danger of extermination by starvation and by disease. It is a logical step from the receipt of such information to the extension of relief measures to the island of Cuba. Spanish government, through its accredited minister in this city, has expressed its willingness that the United States should intervene in Cuba for this charitable purpose, the government has set forth the necessities of the situation clearly before the people, and the time has come for action.

The Star takes pleasure in aiding directly and indirectly in every way it can this beneficent effort. Such a proposition should not require much time to be fully appreciated by Americans. Scruffy always to receive suffering in their own land, they have never failed when suffering in other parts of the globe have been in need of international attention. The American contributions to the starving Russian peasantry in 1892 saved many hundreds, if not thousands, of lives, and a comparatively few thousands of dollars promptly placed at the disposal of the United States General Lee will enable him, maintaining the record of the United States as a charitable nation, to prevent the death of a multitude of Cuban sufferers. The immediate opportunity to help Cuba in a material way is now before the American people.

OBJECTIONABLE ADVERTISEMENTS.

From the Washington Star. Englishmen are fond of forming societies. Perhaps something of this tendency is unduly observable on this side of the water, but for present purposes it is unnecessary to look close at home. The Englishmen demonstrate their trait in this line most ostentatiously wherever a great public event is at hand. This was exemplified in the days preceding the queen's jubilee, when the entire area of the British Isles was plastered with charity funds, public improvement funds, societies for this, that and the other purpose. It was a revel of organization that reminded the observer of the days of the worthy men and women who undertook to supply natives of Borioboola-Gha with flannel shirts and poke bonnets.

Now comes a line of effort that, however it may smack of the British tendency to organize upon the slightest pretext, will confer a benefit on the many American citizens who have suffered from a similar cause. It is called the National Society for Checking the Abuses of Public Advertising. It is an excellent thing, and it deserves success in its plea for the amelioration of the condition of the advertising man. It is an excellent thing, and it deserves success in its plea for the amelioration of the condition of the advertising man. It is an excellent thing, and it deserves success in its plea for the amelioration of the condition of the advertising man.

THE CLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO.

422 Lackawanna Avenue.

1898 Blank Books Diaries Calendars

Beidleman,

THE BOOKMAN

Hill & Connell

437 Spruce St. Opp. The Commonwealth.

in color and illumination in behalf of the reverse of mankind.

It is a serious question whether such advertising really pays. The newspaper that reaches the people in the quiet homes, where plain facts can best appeal to the intellect, is by far the preferable medium of communication. The glaring sign that offends the taste and the public sentiment is not apt to be an efficient missionary. The English flag has started the thing going, and it will probably continue, with trade after trade falling in line until the sky, the air and the landscape have been surrendered wholly to the blaze of light and color. The debauchery of nature and the beautiful handiwork of man should not be checked and thus it is that the English flag for forming societies has hit upon a worthy if somewhat high-sounding, reason for existence. At least to the N. S. C. A. P. A. of London!

FILIBUSTERING.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

A "filibuster" is defined by the Century dictionary as "one of a band of men organized, in disregard of international law, for the purpose of invading and revolutionizing a foreign country." The idea, if a company of Americans, armed or unarmed, should sail in a body for Cuba, for the purpose of joining the insurgents in their attempt to overthrow Spanish rule in the island, their enterprise would be a filibustering expedition and our government would be bound by international law to use every endeavor to prevent the carrying out of their scheme. The authorities at Washington have diligently and at great expense labored to detect such undertakings, and it is probable that few if any genuine filibustering parties have left the United States and landed in Cuba.

The sale of arms, ammunition and other supplies, and their conveyance to Cuba by merchant vessels is quite a different matter. It is a commercial enterprise, not in conflict with international law, and in no sense "filibustering." Our government is not bound to stop such expeditions, and any efforts it has made in that direction have been stretches of courtesy toward the sensitive and influential Spaniards. During the present war our government found no fault with English manufacturers and merchants for attempting to sell goods to the Confederates. It proclaimed a blockade of the southern ports, and enforced it to the best of our ability, and the blockade runners had to take their chances of being captured. But there was no enterprise of individuals, and had no international aspect whatever. The Alabama case was different. We obtained damages from the British government on the ground that Great Britain was liable for the destruction of American vessels, and our consular agents were ordered to seize and detain the depredators of Confederate cruisers that were fitted out or had obtained supplies in British ports. But nothing was remotely resembling this issue has arisen, or can possibly arise, between this country and Spain. No armed vessel sailing from an American port has preyed on Spanish commerce.

Spain, of course, has the right to proclaim and enforce a blockade that shall prevent American or other vessels from delivering supplies to the Cuban patriots. But that is Spain's lookout, not ours; and Spain pleads the baby act when she denounces such business as "filibustering" and whines because our government does not make itself her obedient servant in crushing legitimate commerce. The logical sequel of her contention would be a demand that we use our war vessels to do what she cannot do, viz.: maintain a blockade of Cuban ports in order to make cash her attempt to conquer the insurgents.

Manifestly we must not send filibustering expeditions to Cuba. Manifestly, also, it is our right to engage in commerce with the Cubans, which is not "filibustering." Trading vessels, however, must take their chances with Spain's blockades, and, if caught, submit to the confiscation of their cargoes. But Spain's cry against our commerce is a mere display of the weakness of desperation resulting from a long series of losses and defeats in an unhappy cause.

THE PARADISE OF SECTS. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. America has been called the paradise of sects and isms. The free and inquisitive minds of our people are exceedingly responsive and hospitable towards almost any new doctrine or religious scheme which may present itself. The passion for "joining" doubtless, has something to do with the growth of many orders and organizations. He who is not a member of some society outside of his church or his club is an exception if not a curiosity. Some of our fellow-citizens join almost everything that comes along, and they hail with pleasure the recent announcement of a celebrated evangelist that he belonged to two churches himself and counted there was nothing to hinder him from joining half a dozen if he wanted to do so.

AN EMPHATIC OPINION. From the Pittsburgh Dispatch. The autonomy decree shows either that the McKinley administration was bungled by an incompetent fiscal or that it took a very small hole through which to escape its duty in the Cuban matter.

These goods are what we have left over Xmas, and must be closed out before inventory.

FOOTE & SHEAR CO.,

119 Washington Avenue.

HILL & CONNELL'S

Furniture

Such a choice stock to select from cannot be found elsewhere in this part of the state. And when you consider the moderate prices at which the goods are marked is a further claim on the attention and consideration of buyers.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS.

WRITING DESKS, LOUNGES, DRESSING TABLES, WORK TABLES, FANCY TABLES, EASY CHAIRS, CHEVAL GLASSES, GILT CHAIRS, PARLOR CABINETS, ISLAND CHAIRS, MUSIC CABINETS, ROCKERS, CIGAR CABINETS, SLAYING STANDS, BOOK CASES, PEDESTALS, FANCY BASKETS, TABOURETTES.

All at lowest prices consistent with the high quality of the goods.

Hill & Connell

At 121

North Washington

Avenue.

510 and 512

LACKAWANNA AVENUE

SCRANTON, PA.

Opp. The Commonwealth.

GOLDSMITH'S G. B. BAZAAR.

Business Reputations

Are not made by selling penny prints and 4c stockings, there is something better for you in this store than that. You'll find at all times useful merchandise here—goods that you can buy with confidence and wear with satisfaction. Doesn't it hinge well with your ideas of economy to spend your money to the very best advantage. Cheap goods are not always goods cheap. There's a vast difference between the two. A sham or trashy substitution is dear at any price; think it over, please, the next time you've got dry goods to buy. Although we're hard at work taking our annual inventory, there are

Two Items in Dress Goods

to which we desire to call your attention: Silk Mixed Suitings in a dozen different combinations, 36 inches wide, at 18 cents. SEE WINDOW.

Pompador Suitings in twelve different colorings combined with black, 40 inches wide, 21 cents: SEE WINDOW.

French Organdies

Exclusive designs imported expressly for us, and just the proper thing for evening wear, are now ready for your inspection.

A Happy New Year

To the good people of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies. Busy Shoe Store. 114-116 Wyoming Ave.

BOYLE & MUCKLOW,

416 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

FINLEY'S Diaries

and Calendars

Special Sale of FANCY SILKS

For This Week.

We offer about 1,000 yards Fancy Silk, choice designs in 3 lots, including

Brocades, Persians, Roman Stripes, etc.

in lengths ranging from five to twenty yards each. Former Price, \$1.00 to \$1.65,

LOT 1.....59 Cents

LOT 2.....69 Cents

LOT 3.....88 Cents

a yard, to close them out. The greatest bargain of the season.

WM. T. SMITH.

REYNOLDS BROTHERS, STATIONERS, ENGRAVERS, HOTEL JERMYN BUILDING, 139 Wyoming Avenue.

HENRY BELIN, JR., General Agent for the Wyoming District for

DUPONT'S POWDER.

Mining, Blasting, Sporting Snooklets and the Republic Chemical Company's HIGH EXPLOSIVES. Safety Fuse, Caps and Exploders. Rooms 212, 213 and 214 Commonwealth Building, Scranton.

AGENCIES THOS. FORD, JOHN R. SMITH & SON, E. W. MULLIGAN, Pittston, Plymouth, Wilkes-Barre.

MT. PLEASANT

COAL

AT RETAIL. Coal of the best quality for domestic use and of all sizes, including Buckwheat and Birdseye, delivered in any part of the city at the lowest price.

Orders received at the Office, first floor, Commonwealth building, room No. 6; telephone No. 264 or at the mine, telephone No. 272, will be promptly attended to. Dealers supplied at the mine.

WM. T. SMITH.